

MINUTES OF MEETING OF BOARD OF PUBLIC WORKS OF SEPTEMBER 15, 1939

The Board of Public Works met in the office of the Governor, in the State House, Annapolis, on Friday, September 15, 1939.

Present:

Herbert R. O'Connor, Governor,  
J. Millard Tawes, Comptroller  
Hooper S. Miles, Treasurer

Mr. Walter N. Kirkman, Director of the Department of Budget and Procurement, was present at the meeting.

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Dr. George H. Preston, Commissioner of Mental Hygiene, Dr. Ira A. Darling, Superintendent of Springfield State Hospital, Dr. Silas W. Weltmer, Superintendent of Spring Grove State Hospital, Mr. Henry Powell Hopkins, Architect, and Mr. James Posey, Engineer, appeared before the Board in connection with the construction program for the two institutions, for which appropriations are made in the General Bond Issue of 1939. Dr. Preston advanced the idea that because of the uncertainty of economic conditions the cost of construction will doubtless advance from time to time, and that if it would be possible to permit the two institutions to proceed, at this time, with the entire programs, contemplated by the General Bond Issue of 1939, there would doubtless be considerable saving to the State as compared with proceeding with part of the programs at this time to the extent that funds are immediately available or will be available out of the February 15, 1940 installment of the loan, and the remaining part to be undertaken later, or at the time when funds available would be payable out of the August 15, 1940 installment of the loan.

The Board was unable to decide what to do at the meeting and advised Dr. Preston and the others that the matter would be given consideration as promptly as possible and a decision given. The Board approved the request of the institutions that Mr. Henry Powell Hopkins, as Architect, and associated with him Mr. James Posey, as Engineer, be employed to prepare plans and specifications for the new construction.

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Mr. John T. White, accompanied by Mr. John P. McNulty, and several other gentlemen representing volunteer firemen's organizations, appeared before the Board in the interest of seeing that the work heretofore done at College Park, in the interest of educating firemen in fire prevention and fire fighting work, be continued, and that there be no reduction in the funds made available by the State to the University of Maryland for the cost of the work.

Mr. Kirkman referred to the budget submitted by the University of Maryland, for the fiscal year 1940, and ascertained that the money made available in that budget by the University was adequate and satisfactory to the delegation appearing before the Board. The delegation was assured that the request of the University of Maryland in this matter would be approved.

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Mr. Boyd B. Graham, Attorney, and Mr. Frederick L.W. Moehle, Architect, appeared before the Board in connection with a claim made by Mr. Moehle that he had been retained by the Trustees of St. Mary's Female Seminary to prepare plans and specifications for the new gymnasium building to be built at the institution. Mr. S.M. Jones, President of the Board of Trustees of St. Mary's Female Seminary, and Mr. R.H. Pembroke, Chairman of the Building Committee of the institution, were also present.

Mr. Graham and Mr. Moehle stated they felt that because of a letter addressed to Mr. Moehle under date of July 12, 1939, by Mr. C. Benedict Greenwell, Acting Secretary for the Building Committee, advising that the Board of Trustees had selected Mr. Moehle and his associates as Architects for the building, they proceeded to prepare plans and specifications believing the letter from Mr. Greenwell was authoritative and represented the action of the State in the selection of an Architect. Mr. Jones and Mr. Pembroke stated that they had advised Mr. Moehle that any selection made by the Trustees would have to be approved by the Board of Public Works under the law, and that it was intended that Mr. Greenwell's letter to Mr. Moehle should have been so qualified, and that it was an inadvertence in not adding the qualification to Mr. Greenwell's letter.

Mr. Jones and Mr. Pembroke stated that in view of the disagreeable feature which had arisen in connection with this matter they were not willing to request the Board of Public Works to approve the selection of Mr. Moehle as Architect, for the work. The Board felt that since no request for the selection of an Architect was before it for consideration it was unwilling to enter into the differences existing between the Trustees and Mr. Moehle, and take any action on Mr. Moehle's request for approval. The Board decided to leave to the Board of Trustees the matter of submitting to the Board of Public Works for approval the name of the Architect they desired to do the work for the institution.

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The Board discussed the new State Office Building, particularly with regard to the expected date of completion. The Architect and Contractor recently stated verbally that the building would not be completed until about the middle of October. The Board had previously advised the departments to be transferred to the new building, that it would be available for occupancy the latter part of September. The Secretary was instructed to write the several departments to the effect that there has been some delay in the completion of the work, and that the building will not be ready for occupancy until the latter part of October or about November 1.

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The Secretary submitted three proposals from the Davis Construction Company for work in connection with the new State Office Building, as follows:

- 1 - A proposal to furnish all necessary labor and material to Construct a 13" brick vault in the storage space for the Comptroller, remove a vault door from the basement of the Court of Appeals Building and reset same in this vault for the net sum of \$425.00

The Board authorized the acceptance of this proposal.

- 2 - A proposal to furnish all necessary labor and material to terrace the area from the garden wall along the adjoining property to Carroll Street, sloping this out for a distance of 9'0", sodding same, also repairing and rebuilding the present fence and painting same, for the sum of \$900.00.

The Board rejected this proposal.

- 3 - A proposal to furnish all necessary labor and material to build a brick wall along the adjoining property of the Post Office connecting to the garden wall and running to Carroll Street, in accordance with our instructions, for the net sum of \$2,400.00.

The Board rejected this proposal.

As to proposals two and three the Board felt that it would be possible to improve the appearance of the property where it adjoins in the rear of the property on Northwest Street by the planting of some trees, which would involve considerable less expense than the first of the two proposals.

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The Secretary brought to the attention of the Board four letters from the Eastern Shore State Hospital, dated September 7, 1939, as follows:

- 1 - A request that the institution proceed with the construction and equipment of a cottage for an assistant physician at a cost of \$4,500.00, the money being available out of the General Bond Issue of 1939, the hospital doing the work itself with labor employed and materials purchased through the Department of Budget and Procurement.

This request was approved.

2 - A request that the institution proceed with finishing the basement of the new dormitory building out of an appropriation of \$3,000.00 provided in the General Bond Issue of 1939, the work to be done in accordance with plans prepared by Mr. Henry Powell Hopkins, Architect, and bids to be secured from contractors for the work. The Board approved the request.

3 - A request that the institution be authorized to proceed with alterations and additions to the Administration Building, for laboratories and equipment, for which an allotment of \$30,000.00 was included in the General Bond Issue of 1939, in accordance with plans and specifications prepared by Mr. Henry Powell Hopkins, Architect, and for which bids are to be solicited. The request was approved.

4 - A request that the institution be authorized to proceed with the plans and specifications for the construction of a sewage disposal plant, for which an appropriation of \$25,000.00 was included in the General Bond Issue of 1939, the plans and specifications to be made under the direction of the State Department of Health, this work being necessary to connect the sewerage system of the institution with the sewerage system of the City of Cambridge. In connection therewith the Board was advised by Mr. Kirkman that a contract between the City of Cambridge and the institution covering the cost to the State for taking care of the sewage by the City of Cambridge was being prepared.

The Board stated it would approve the contract after approval had been given to it by the Attorney General.

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The Secretary brought to the attention of the Board a letter received from Mr. Willis R. Jones, Chairman of the Department of Correction, requesting that he be advised as to the procedure to be following in the expenditure of the appropriation of \$1,200,000 in the General Bond Issue of 1939, for continuing and completing the construction work at the institution.

The Board approved the continuance of the methods followed up to this time, as to the operations at the Penal Farm, as outlined in the first and second paragraphs of Mr. Jones' letter of August 22, 1939.

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The Secretary brought to the attention of the Board a letter from the Maryland Training School for Boys, requesting that the services of Mr. Henry Powell Hopkins, and his associates, be retained in collaboration on design of power plant equipment and pastuerizing plant at the school.

The request was approved with the understanding that Mr. James Posey, Engineer, will assist Mr. Hopkins in the work.

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The Secretary brought to the attention of the Board a letter addressed by Mr. James Posey, Consulting Engineer, to Mr. E. Lee Kries, Chief Engineer, State House, relative to work to be done on the pumps at the State Power House, in connection with changes made there in mechanical work to improve the power house facilities because of the addition of the New State Office Building. The letter indicated the cost of \$126.20 to take care of the work outlined in the letter.

The Board approved the recommendation that the work be done and that payment therefor be made out of the State Office Building Loan of 1937.

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Mr. Hooper S. Miles reported that on Friday, September 1, 1939, he endorsed to the American Surety Company check #36405, for \$3,811.45, received from Mr. J.D. Hospelhorn, Receiver for the Baltimore Trust Company, representing 5% payment on Certificate of Indebtedness #41774 for face amount of \$76,228.95, which Certificate formerly belonged to the State of Maryland but was assigned to said Surety in December, 1938, upon payment in full by the Surety of balance due the State.

Mr. Miles' action was approved.

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*Ind. St. Reform  
for Inhaler*

The Secretary brought to the attention of the Board a number of communications received from insurance companies and insurance agencies in Baltimore City, protesting against any action of the Board in moving the offices of the State Insurance Department to the new State Office Building in Annapolis.

The Board had not previously taken any action looking toward moving the said offices to Annapolis, and no action in the matter was taken at this meeting.

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The Secretary brought to the attention of the Board a letter received from the Anne Arundel County Welfare Board, asking that consideration be given to providing space in the new State Office Building for that Board.

It was decided that consideration could not be given to housing any but strictly State Offices in the new building.

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The Secretary brought to the attention of the Board a communication from the Annapolis Chamber of Commerce, outlining a tentative program for the opening of the new State Office Building and the Governor Ritchie Highway.

The Board expressed its willingness to co-operate with the various organizations of Annapolis in any program for the opening of the new building and the Governor Ritchie Highway, but was unable to state any definite date because of the uncertainty as to the date of completion of the new building. The matter will be given further consideration later when it is possible to definitely decide upon a date for the celebration.

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The Secretary brought to the attention of the Board a letter received from the State Board of Hairdressers and Beauty Culturists, dated August 29, 1939, in which it was requested that the Board be allowed to maintain a small office in Baltimore in connection with the offices it will occupy in the new State Office Building.

The request was disapproved.

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The Secretary brought to the attention of the Board a letter from the Public Service Commission asking if it would be possible to make available to that Commission, in the new State Office Building, some storage space for the records of the Commission.

The Board deferred any action on the request pending completion of the new building and the checking up on the matter of space after the various State offices have moved into the new building.

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The Board discussed the matter of moving the furnishings of the several departments being moved from Baltimore to the new State Office Building.

This matter was referred to Mr. Kirkman who stated he had received several inquiries from moving concerns who are interested in doing the work.

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The Secretary brought to the attention of the Board a communication from Mr. Edwin Warfield, Jr., Chairman of the Conservation Department, and a statement submitted in connection with the operation of the Conservation Department, bearing on the question of the moving of the offices of the department from Baltimore to the new State Office Building in Annapolis.

The Board felt it could not revise its previous decision in deciding to move the department to Annapolis.

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The Secretary advised the Board of a conversation he had with Mr. Joseph H. Blandford, President, Cheltenham School for Boys, in which Mr. Blandford advised of the need for a new stable and two cottages at the institution, at a cost of about \$6,000.00 for each building, or a total cost of \$18,000.00, the money to be made

available from savings Mr. Blandford estimated the institution would be able to make in its budget for the year ending September 30, 1939, provided an amendment would be approved adjusting the budget so that the savings aggregating \$18,000.00 would be concentrated in one new item for the construction of the stable and the cottages. Mr. Blandford stated he felt it would be important to have one of the cottages to take care of the new director of education which the school expected to employ in the near future, and that the other cottage would be needed for employees living at the institution.

The Board felt it advisable to defer any action in the matter until some decision could be made in connection with the survey of the School which had been made during the past several months, and a report on which had just recently been received.

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St. Roads Comm.

The Secretary advised the Board that a reply had not as yet been received from the Attorney General, relative to the Bata Shoe Company matter.

The Board felt that nothing could be done until the Attorney General's advices in the matter could be received.

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The Secretary reported to the Board that he, in conjunction with the Attorney General and the Deputy Attorney General, had met with Mr. Hugo C. Schwartz, Head of the Public Finance Unit, U.S. Department of Agriculture, relative to the negotiation of an agreement between the United States and the State of Maryland, for a payment by the United States in lieu of taxes on behalf of the residents of the Town of Greenbelt. The meeting was very satisfactory and Mr. Schwartz agreed to have the proper agreement drawn and submit it to the Board of Public Works for consideration.

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The Secretary presented to the Board a Deed submitted by the State Roads Commission conveying approximately .05 of an acre of land in Calvert County to the Stockwood Investment Company.

The Board approved the execution of the deed.

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The Secretary brought to the attention of the Board some correspondence received from Dr. H.C. Byrd, President of the University of Maryland, relative to a proposal made by the Rural Women's Organization, made up of Home Demonstration groups throughout the State, that the said organization raise approximately \$50,000.00 to construct a building on the campus of the University of Maryland to be used by the University for headquarters for their work. The matter was presented to the Board because the State Law Department had advised Dr. Byrd that while Section 101A of Article 41 of the Code, specifically authorizes the acceptance of gifts by the University of Maryland, there may be a question of policy involved, in that the use of State property by a group not directly associated with the University is to be permitted.

The Board discussed the matter at length, but was unable to definitely decide whether to approve the request until further information was made available. The Board is desirous of being assured that all the money necessary to erect the proposed building would be available, and that the State will not be called upon to contribute toward the cost of the work, and further is desirous of knowing what is to be done relative to the maintenance of the Building. The Secretary was requested to communication with Dr. Byrd and secure the additional information.

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The Secretary brought to the attention of the Board a letter received from the Maryland State Game and Inland Fish Commission, in which authority was requested for the sale of a patrol boat about 45 feet in length, which has been used in the past on Deep Creek Lake in Garrett County, and the purchase of a smaller boat, which would be more suitable for the work, with the proceeds from the sale of the larger boat.

The request was approved.

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*Barrett School  
for Girls*

The Secretary brought to the attention of the Board a file of correspondence relative to work of repairs and cleaning at the Maryland Training School for Colored Girls. Mr. Kirkman stated that he had been in touch with the School relative to prices received for the work, and felt that the bid of Diaz and Lowe, Contractors, of \$4,800.00, being the lowest of three bids received for the work, seemed to be the desirable bid to accept.

The Board approved the acceptance of the Bid of Diaz and Lowe by the Maryland Training School for Colored Girls and the work to be done in accordance with the specifications attached to the Bid.

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The Secretary brought to the attention of the Board a letter received from the State Department of Forestry, requesting authority to purchase ten abandoned orchard lots in Allegany County, to be added to the Green Ridge State Forest, which now surrounds the property. Mr. Besley, in his letter, stated that the owner of the property is the Sunnyside Orchard Corporation, a defunct corporation whose charter has been forfeited for non-payment of State Taxes, and that the charter would have to be revived in order to pass title to the property. Mr. Besley asked what could be done in the matter of abatement of corporation taxes.

The Board stated its willingness to abate the franchise taxes, but that the corporation would have to take care of any expenses in connection with the filing of a petition for reinstatement. The Board is agreeable to the obtaining of this property at the lowest cost possible.

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The Secretary brought to the attention of the Board a letter received from Hon. Philip H. Dorsey, Jr., relative to the Washington, Brandywine and Point Lookout Railroad Company, whose charter was forfeited for non-payment of taxes in 1939. It was felt by the company that an act of the Legislature exempted the company from taxation, but the State Tax Commission was of the opinion that the exemption related only to real and personal property taxes and not to franchise taxes. However, the Board felt that a liberal interpretation of the act of the Legislature would relieve the corporation of the 1936 taxes and accordingly authorized an abatement of taxes for that year. The Comptroller was authorized to request the State Tax Commission to remove the name of the corporation from the list certified to the Governor as being in arrears for taxes.

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The Secretary brought to the attention of the Board a communication from the Superintendent of Maryland State Police, requesting that the Board approve an amendment to the budget of his department for the fiscal year 1939, which would make available to him the estimated sum of \$21,277.50, which will remain unexpended at the end of the fiscal year, for the several items listed by the Superintendent in his letter. This would enable the Superintendent to take advantage of Works Progress Administration assistance in completing work at sub-stations, for conducting a training school for officers, for miscellaneous equipment and for replacing officers at sub-stations with clerks, so that the officers would be available for State police duty.

The Board approved the request of the Superintendent with the understanding that the details necessary to amend the budget would be taken care of by Mr. Kirkman.

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The Secretary brought to the attention of the Board a letter from the Public Service Commission relative to the difference of opinion existing between the Commission and the State Department of Forestry, as to reimbursement to be received by the Department of Forestry for permission to the Potomac Edison Company, in constructing a line from Grantsville to Keysers Ridge where it was necessary for the line at places to be run over land owned by the State and under the control of the State Department of Forestry.

The Board decided that the State Department of Forestry should grant permission for the line to be run over its property at a cost not in excess of that paid by the Company to others.

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The Secretary brought to the attention of the Board a letter received from the Convery Sign Company, relative to lettering on office doors in the new State Office Building.

The Board agreed that the Comptroller and Treasurer should confer as to the lettering to be used for their offices, and that the same style lettering should be used by other offices in the building when they become occupied by the departments.

The Secretary called to the attention of the Board the fact that it would be necessary to employ additional watchmen and janitors, and elevator operators for the new State Office Building, and that the new budget contemplates the employment of these persons, as well as the changing of the hours of employment of this class of help, for the various State buildings in Annapolis, to an eight hour a day basis.

The Board felt that this matter could be given consideration later when the building would be ready for occupancy.

The Board approved the request of the State Board of Examining Engineers that it be authorized to lease space in the Court Square Building, Baltimore, at a rental of \$25.00 per month.

Mr. Kirkman submitted to the Board a recommendation that the Public Service Commission be authorized to lease space in the Munsey Building, Baltimore, for a period of four years, commencing with the expiration of the present lease on the premises, at an annual rental of \$7,250.00, beginning October 1, 1939.

The Board approved the recommendation.

Mr. Kirkman recommended to the Board that the State Roads Commission be authorized to lease space in the Federal Reserve Bank Building, Baltimore, for a period of four years, commencing with the expiration of the present lease on the premises, at an annual rental of \$20,740.00 from October 1, 1939 to September 30, 1943.

The Board approved the recommendation.

Mr. Kirkman submitted to the Board a recommendation that the Teachers' Retirement System be authorized to lease space in the Lexington Building, Baltimore, for a period of two years, commencing with the expiration of the present lease on the premises, at an annual rental of \$1,392.00.

The Board approved the recommendation.

Mr. Kirkman reported that he had visited the State Teachers' College at Towson, Maryland, and has examined the dormitory building where there was a great deal of vacant space due to the fact that they have so many less students at this time than was contemplated when the dormitory was built, but that it would not be possible to make any practical use of this space for office purposes without a great deal of money being spent for structural changes. He stated he thought the matter should be kept in mind from time to time in case any possible use of this space can be made.

The request of the State Teachers' College-Towson, for authority to sell some equipment which it has had for some time, but for which there is no longer any need, was approved.

Mr. Kirkman brought to the attention of the Board a letter received from the Public Service Commission, requesting authority to increase salaries of certain employees of the Commission for the fiscal years 1940 and 1941.

After due consideration the request was disapproved.

The Budget amendment submitted by the Maryland State School for the Deaf, covering repairs to buildings at the institution, was approved. This amendment was verbally approved by the Governor and the other members of the Board some days before because of the desire of Dr. Bjorlee to get the work of repairing under way and completed, if possible, before the return of the children to school.

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The Secretary submitted to the Board a request from the Commissioner of Labor and Statistics, that he be authorized to renew lease of space used by his department, at 330 North Charles Street, Baltimore. The present lease covers 2,450 square feet, at an annual rental of \$2,537.50, and expires November 1, 1939.

The request was referred to Mr. Kirkman for his investigation and report.

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The Board requested that Mr. Kirkman be furnished with a statement showing the various State departments leasing office space, so that he might have this information available to him from time to time and use it in connection with any matters referred to him relating to the leasing of office space.

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Mr. Kirkman was requested to look into the matter of space used by the State in the Union Trust Building, Baltimore, with the view to making any adjustments necessary in connection with vacancies created by the transfer of state offices from that building to the new State Office Building in Annapolis, and have new leases in the case of departments already in the building, which will remain there, but whose leases have expired or are about to expire.

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The Board approved budget amendments for the following departments:

Springfield State Hospital  
State Tobacco Warehouse  
Maryland Training School for Colored Girls  
Hall of Records Commission  
State Teachers' College-Frostburg (including  
authority to purchase furniture from excess  
fees - 1939).

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Mr. Kirkman submitted budget amendment for the State Department of Health, but after discussion it was suggested that the amendment be revised as to the change contemplated by it in connection with motor vehicles.

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The Board agreed to approve an amendment for Spring Grove State Hospital to make available to that institution some funds which it would have unexpended in its operative budget for the fiscal year 1939, to make the money available for certain necessary repairs.

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Mr. Kirkman submitted to the Board break-downs of lump sum appropriations contained in the Budget for the fiscal years 1940-1941. After consideration these budgets were approved by the Board.

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The Board approved the request of the State Department of Health that it employ Mr. Abel Wolman as consultant in connection with its engineering work, for a period of one year ending June 30, 1940, and that payment be made from time to time with the understanding that the total payments in the course of the year will be approximately \$900.00.

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Mr. Kirkman brought to the attention of the Board that the Law requires the various examining boards of the State to submit to the Board of Public Works for approval statements of estimated receipts and disbursements, and requested the Board to advise him its wishes as to requiring this information to be furnished.

This matter was discussed by the members of the Board, and while it was felt that in the case of most of the boards the receipts and disbursements involved so little money, not much was to be gained in supervising their finances. However, the Board suggested that Mr. Kirkman might make an effort to get all of these agencies to furnish the statements required by Law, and to discuss the matter further at a later meeting.

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A letter received from the State Teachers' College, Frostburg, requesting that it be permitted to use \$2,000.00 in receipts from excess fees, for the fiscal year 1939, for the purchase of additional equipment, was considered. A letter from Mr. Kirkman, relative to this matter, and a further explanation from him at the meeting were also considered.

The request of the College was approved.

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The Board considered and approved a request of Rosewood State Training School that it proceed with the construction work outlined in its letter of June 3, 1939, totaling \$295,000.00, the appropriation for which is included in the General Bond Issue of 1939, installment of August 15, 1939. The request that Mr. Henry P. Hopkins be retained as the Architect, and Messrs. Eiser and Akers as Consulting Engineers for the projects, at the usual commission of 6%, was approved.

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there being no further business the meeting adjourned.

  
Secretary